



**City of Blairsville, GA**  
**Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting**  
**October 5, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**Blairsville City Hall**  
**62 Blue Ridge Street, Blairsville, GA 30512**

**COUNCIL PRESENT:**

Mayor Jim Conley  
Councilmember Rhonda Mahan  
Councilmember Robert Moore  
Councilmember Tony Dyer  
Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Kaye McCann, City Clerk  
Michael Baxter, Police Dept  
Jody Cook, WWTP

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

David Barrett, City Attorney  
Mark Smith, North Georgia News  
Pat Malone, WJRB  
Laura Souther, FYN  
Steve Rowe, BUCCC President  
David Dyer, UC Fire Chief  
Chip McGaughey, EMI  
Heath Lee, Mountain Regional Library System  
David McCann, Kayla Hemphill, Frank Pack  
Cindy Vandereedt, Joe Paisley, Marsha Lodes  
Laurie Brothers  
2021 Leadership Union Class (see last page for detail)

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:** Invocation was led by City Attorney David Barrett and pledge of allegiance was led by Councilmember Robert Moore.

**Call Meeting to Order:** Mayor Conley called the meeting to order 6:01 p.m.

**Approve Proposed Agenda:** Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Tony Dyer with a unanimous vote to approve the proposed agenda.

**Dispense reading and approve minutes:** Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to dispense reading of and approve minutes from the 9/7/2021 regular council meeting.

**Public Hearing:**

1. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adopt the millage rate for 2021 at 1.377 mills.
2. Mayor Conley held first reading of Ordinance 2021-03 to adopt the 2022 Operating Budget.

**Public Comments:**

1. Heath Lee, Mountain Regional Library System Director, addressed the council thanking them for their support.
2. Cindy Vandereedt commented on the special election and commented on the North Georgia News article giving her opinion of the three candidates who qualified for the special election.

**Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:**

1. Steve Rowe, BUCCC President, recognized the Leadership Union Class attending the council meeting and spoke about the upcoming events in October.

Laurie Brothers addressed the council stating she was not aware that there was a special election and wanted to know when the city limit boundaries were established. Mayor Conley answered saying the limits were established in 1835 when the city was founded. She asked about procedures to expand the city limits.

2. Chip McGaughey, EMI, explained the State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant is a federal grant funneled through the state for purposes of water/sewer projects. The project for the city that could be included in the

application is a Sewer System Expansion out 515 east to the bowling alley/movie theater - estimated cost \$2,282,000 with the city contributing \$250,000 towards the project. Mayor Conley stated GMRC will assist with the application which has a deadline of October 31, 2021. Motion was made by Councilmember Robert Moore, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to proceed with the application process.

3. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Robert Moore with a unanimous vote to approve the following quotes from Pro Pump Solutions all to be paid from SPLOST:
  - a. Job #1949                      Digester Tank 3 Pump repair                      \$5,890.83
  - b. Job #1950-B                  3 HOMA AMS434-180                      \$23,370.00 (to replace Flygt pumps)
  - c. Job #1951                      Mixed Flush Valve repair                      \$961.12
  - d. Job #P210188                  NGT Lift Station impeller & surge arrestor \$20,149.61
4. Motion was made by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan, seconded by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook with a unanimous vote to approve the King Heating and Air agreement for quarterly maintenance of City Hall air conditioning units - \$735/year
5. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve DPI Leasing agreement for upgraded copier for police department - \$85.00/month
6. Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the revised initial and renewal applications for Alcohol Beverage License.
7. Mayor Conley reported to the council that after reaching out to other cities who have sewer only service for ordinance examples it was found that cities have experienced difficulty when they are billing for the sewer service, rather than the water provider, with some customers not paying the sewer bills. There is no recourse since the city is not providing water and cannot discontinue service. The sewer only service will be put on hold until a solution can be found. Mayor Conley has contacted Mitch Griggs to advise him of this issue.
8. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to authorize the mayor and city clerk to execute the state grant application for Public Safety Officials bonus to be funded by State of Georgia ARPA federal funds.
9. Councilmember Tony Dyer led the discussion regarding the conditions of property located at 411 Highway 515 after the city had received a complaint. City Attorney David Barrett referred the council to the city's Junk Ordinance from 2005 as well as a general state nuisance law. Mayor Conley mentioned settling this matter amicably with a letter to the property owner. Mr. Pack, owner of the property, was present at the meeting and addressed the council, stating he has been cleaning this on his own with no assistance. After discussion, the city will be seeking legal avenues to address the issue.

**Consent Agenda:**

1. Motion was made by Councilmember Mary Ruth Cook, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to approve the following consent agenda items:
  - 1a. Occupational Tax Certificate - JW Gordon Insurance Services, LLC; 126C Blue Ridge Street; John Mark Gordon, owner; new business
  - 1b. Occupational Tax Certificate - Clothes Line Laundromat; 190 Young Harris Street; Kenneth Pude, owner; new ownership
  - 1c. Occupational Tax Certificate and Sign Permit - The Reel Barbershop; 30 Earnest Street; Celina Stephens, owner; new business
  - 1d. Occupational Tax Certificate - The Hair Shoppe; 218A Young Harris Street; Emma Henderson, owner; new ownership

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Councilmember Tony Dyer, seconded by Councilmember Rhonda Mahan with a unanimous vote to adjourn. 6:59 pm

Minutes of Regular City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021  
6:00 P.M.

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Kaye McCann, City Clerk

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Approved by City Council

*Minutes will be in final form after they have been approved at the next regular scheduled Council meeting.*

Leadership Union Class attendees:

Derrick Pruitt  
Kody Owenby  
Tommy Wosylak  
Jess Walker - BUCCC  
Bradley Barrett  
Jennifer Gross  
Brandon Hargrove  
Elijah Eatherly  
Ben Newell  
Kyle Hamby  
Crystal Wagner  
David Dyer  
Debby Townsend  
Rebecca Gilliam